

WE CLAIM:

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1. In a computing device, a method for determining a starting point for an application when a new user session is started, comprising the acts of:
 - (a) determining an amount of time since a last interaction with the application;
 - (b) comparing an interval of time to the determined amount of time, the interval of time being associated with a current user session for the application; and
 - (c) when the determined amount of time is greater than the interval of time associated with the current user session for the application, ending the current user session and starting the new user session for the application at the starting point when the application is selected.
 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein each application running on the computing device is associated with a separate current user session and a separate interval of time.
 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the interval of time represents a maximum period of inactivity for the selected application.
 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the interval of time is editable for each application.
 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - (a) when a switch for the computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining an amount of time between a last transition of the switch to an off state and a current transition of the switch to the on state;
 - (b) comparing another interval of time to the determined amount of time, the other interval of time being associated with a current user session for the switch; and
 - (c) when the determined amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending the current user session for the application and starting a new user session for the switch, whereby a selection of the application will cause a selected view to be displayed on the computing device and the new user session to be started for the selected application.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(a) when a switch for the computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining an amount of time between a last automatic transition of the computing device to an off state and a current transition of the switch to the on state;

(b) comparing another interval of time to the determined amount of time, the other interval of time being associated with a current user session for the switch; and

(c) when the determined amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending the current user session for the application and starting a new user session for the switch, whereby a selection of the application will cause a selected view to be displayed on the computing device and the new user session to be started for the selected application.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein a length of the other interval of time is automatically adjusted in proportion to a frequency of operation of the switch, including:

(a) increasing the length of the other interval of time when the frequency of the operation of the switch is greater than a defined value; and

(b) decreasing the length of the other interval of time when the frequency of the operation of the switch is less than the defined value.

8. In a small computing device, a method for displaying a selected view when a new user session is started for one of a plurality of applications on the small computing device, comprising the acts of:

(a) determining an amount of time since a last selection of the application;

(b) comparing the determined amount of time for the application to an interval of time that is associated with a current user session for the application;

(c) when the determined amount of time for the application is greater than the interval of time, ending the current user session for the selected application and starting a new user session for the application when the application is selected, wherein the selected view of the selected application is displayed in the new user session;

(d) when a switch for the small computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining another amount of time representing a difference between a last transition of the switch to an off state and a current transition of the switch to the on state;

(e) comparing another interval of time to the other amount of time, the other interval of time being associated with a current user session for the switch; and

(f) when the other amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending each current user session for each application and starting a new user session for the switch, wherein each selection of any one of the plurality of applications will cause the selected view to be displayed on the small computing device and another new user session to be started for the selected application.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

(a) generating a time stamp for each interaction with each application, each time stamp being employed to determine the amount of time since the last interaction; and

(b) generating another time stamp for each transition of the switch between the on state and the off state, each other time stamp being employed to determine the amount of time since the last operation of the switch.

10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

(a) associating each application with a separate priority value; and

(b) employing each separate priority value to determine when to stop running each application on the small computing device during a period of inactivity.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising employing a frequency of interaction with a particular application to dynamically change the priority value associated with the particular application.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

(a) increasing the priority value associated with the particular application when a high frequency of interaction occurs; and

(b) decreasing the priority value associated with the particular application when a low frequency of interaction occurs.

selection of the application will cause the default state to be displayed on the computing system and the new user session to be started for the selected application.

19. A system for communicating between a client process and a server process in a computing device, comprising:

- (a) the client process performing actions, including:
 - (i) determining an amount of time since a last selection of the application; and
 - (ii) when a switch for the computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining another amount of time representing a difference between a last transition of the switch to an off state and the current transition of the switch to the on state; and
- (b) the server process performing actions, including
 - (i) comparing the determined amount of time for the application to an interval of time that is associated with a current user session for the application;
 - (ii) when the determined amount of time for the application is greater than the interval of time associated with the current session for the application, ending the current user session and starting a new user session for the application when the application is selected, wherein the server process causes a selected view of the selected application to be displayed in the new user session for the selected application;
 - (iii) comparing another interval of time to the other amount of time, the other interval of time being associated with a current user session for the switch; and
 - (iv) when the other amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending each current user session for each application and starting a new user session for the switch, wherein the server process will cause the selected view to be displayed on the computing device and a separate new user session to be started for a selection of any one of a plurality applications on the computing device.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein the switch controls the power for the computing device.

21. The system of Claim 19, wherein the switch is a function switch for the computing device.

22. The system of Claim 19, wherein the client process generates a time stamp for each interaction with each application and each transition of the switch.

23. A system for a client-server environment in a computing device, the client performing actions, comprising:

(a) determining an amount of time since a last selection of an application running on the computing device;

(b) when a switch for the computing device is transitioned to an on state, determining another amount of time representing a difference between a last transition of the switch to an off state and the current transition of the switch to the on state; and

(c) enabling the server to perform actions, including:

(i) comparing the determined amount of time for the application to an interval of time that is associated with a current user session for the application;

(ii) when the determined amount of time for the application is greater than the interval of time associated with the current session for the application, ending the current user session and starting a new user session for the application when the application is selected, wherein the server causes a selected view of the selected application to be displayed in the new user session for the selected application;

(iii) comparing another interval of time to the other amount of time, the other interval of time being associated with a current user session for the switch; and

(iv) when the other amount of time is greater than the other interval of time associated with the current user session for the switch, ending each current user session for each application and starting a new user session for the switch, wherein the server causes the selected view to be displayed on the computing device and a separate new user session to be started for a selection of any one of a plurality applications on the computing device.